THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Percentage as on 31.3.88 is as under:

Urban 89.88%

Rural 10.12%

(c) and (d) All the villages in the rural areas in the country are likely to be provided with Telecom. facility by the year 2000 AD. As a first step, one public telephone will be provided in each of the inhabited hexagons (an area with 5 Km side) during the 8th plan. The facility will thereafter be expended gradually to all the villages upto the year 2000.

ED Employees

516. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) since when and for what purpose ED system was introduced in the country, whether Government have accepted the recommendations of Savoor Committee to abolish the ED system in urban areas and regularise the services of such ED employees else where, if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) how many ED officials are working in urban areas as on 31st December, 1988; and

(c) what is the number of officers/officials working in the Postal Directorate and how many of them are dealing with the problems of about three lakh ED employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) ED system which dated prior to 1866 has been introduced to cater to the limited postal traffic in various parts of the country where the justification for establishing a regular departmental post office does not exist. The recommendation of the Committee on ED system that no ED agent should be employed in urban areas has been accepted in general terms. However, in Press Sorting Offices the engagement of ED Sorters is to continue as the cost is to be recovered from press owners. It has also been proposed to countinue the category of ED Stamp Vendors, employment of ED Mailmen, ED Delivery Agents, ED Mail Carriers and ED Packers in sub-urban areas and small towns where there will be no justification for regular departmental employees of corresponding categories. The Committee on ED System has recommended continuance of ED system in the present form and has not recommended for making ED employees regular departmental employees.

(b) No separate statistics is maintained for the ED staff working in urban areas.

(c) The number of officers/officials working in Postal Directorate is 658. The problems of ED employees are dealt at various appropriate levels in the Department. In the postal Directorate, the problems of ED employees are dealt at various branches dealing with concerned subjects.

Regularisation of services of LD Employees

517. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the judgement of the Supreme Court to absorb casual workers (who have completed one year's service) in P&T Department, if so, whether the LD employees will continue to get first preference in the matter of absorption in Group 'D';

(b) whether the Department of Telecommunications has regularised the services of all the casual workers who have rendered seven years service in the Department; and

(c) whether Government would consi-

der to regularise the services of LD employees also

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Orders to this effect have been issued.

(c) E. D. employees are appointed in regular vacancies in accordance with existing instructions.

Promotion avenues for extra-departmental employees

518. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to starred Question 335 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 1988 and state:

(a) whether all the vacant posts of Group 'D' and Postmen have been filled up from among the eligible EDAs;

(b) what is the number of Extra Departmental employees promoted to Group 'D' and Postmen as on 28th February, 1989; and

(c) the category-wise total number of ED employees as on 28th February, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. However, Extra Departmental employees are given first preference in the matter of their induction into the outsiders quota of group D and Postman cadres. Other categories of staff are considered only when Extra Departmental Agents are not available or do not qualify the test as per existing instructions.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Determining the work load of ED Employees

519. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the emoluments of ED employees are calculated on the basis of their workload;

(b) what is the procedure to determine the work load of each category of Ed Employees; and

(c) what is the periodicity of calculating their work load?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work load of each category of ED employees is calculated on the basis of norms applicable to corresponding categories of regular departmental employees except in the case of ED Branch Post Masters for whom the work load is calculated on the basis of point system inforce.

(c) The periodicity of review of allowances on the basis of actual work load is 2 years in the case of EDBEMs/EDSPMs and 5 years in respect of all categories of ED employees other than EDBPMs/EDSPMs.

टेलीफोन के बढ़े-चढ़े बिलों के बारे में संसद सदस्यों की शिकायतें

520. **श्री सन्तोष बागड़ोदिया:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उनके मंत्रालय को संसद सदस्यों के टेलीफोनों के बढ़े-चढ़े बिलों के बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान ऐसी कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुईं;

(ग) टेलीफोनों के ऐसे बढ़े-चढ़े बिल बनाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इस समय ऐसी कितनी शिकायतें लम्बित हैं और उनके लंबित पड़े रहने के क्या कारण हैं?